

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003066

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. FOR BILL BROWN: DALE HERSPRING SAYS HE WROTE YOU
SOME TIME BACK ABOUT A QUESTION OF HIS ETA AND WOULD APPRE-
CIATE A RESPONSE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

2. FOR MATLOCK FROM PORTER: DURING CONSULTATIONS HERE, I
HAVE DISCUSSED WITH BILL LUERS POSSIBILITY OF HIS VISITING
KIEV SATURDAY, JANUARY 14. I BELIEVE SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE
EXTREMELY USEFUL AND BILL HAS AGREED TO MAKE THE TRIP,
TRAVELING BY OVERNIGHT TRAIN JANUARY 13 AND RETURNING BY
TRAIN MORNING OF JANUARY 15. I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING
THIS WITH YOU JAN 6 OR 7.

3. RE PARA 4, MOSCOW 123, LUERS DEPARTS BUDAPEST JAN 9 ON
AEROFLOT 132, 10:20, ARRIVES MOSCOW 2:45.
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4. SOLOMENTSEV DELEGATION PHOTOS: WE ARE OBTAINING FROM
USIA FIFTEEN SETS OF 8X10 PHOTOS OF THE SOLOMENTSEV DELE-
GATION'S VISIT TO THE U.S. THEY SHOULD BE READY WITHIN TWO
WEEKS AT THE MOST, AND WE WILL POUCH IMMEDIATELY.

5. RE CASE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, EVERYONE HERE UNDER-

STANDS THE STRAIN IMPOSED BUT WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED FROM ABROAD RESPONSE TO OUR RECOMMENDATION. EVEN IF WE GET IMMEDIATE GO-AHEAD, OF COURSE, SOME FURTHER DELAY WOULD BE INVOLVED IF WE WAIT FOR REACTION TO OUR ULTIMATUM. HOW SOON WOULD YOU EXPECT BEEF FROM SOVIETS THERE?

6. STILL NO WORD ON SENIOR SEMINAR VISIT?

7. TRANSCRIPTS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER TALKS (WHICH WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED) ARE BEING POUCHED TO YOU, ALSO SOME OF PAPERS PREPARED FOR TALKS. ASSUME ALSO YOU WILL HAVE TALKED TO GARY MATTHEWS WHO TOOK PART IN TALKS.

8. I NEED YOUR COUNSEL ON THE SERIOUS PROBLEM WE HAVE IN FINDING A GOOD REPLACEMENT FOR MEL LEVITSKY. MEL HAS DONE A STELLAR JOB IN A POSITION VITAL TO OUR SERVING YOU AND KEY TO SOV'S DAILY SURVIVAL. I HAVE TRIED WENICK AND JOYCE TO NO AVAIL, AND GATHER RUECKERT WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED. OTHER POSSIBLE OPTIONS, NOT YET EXPLORED ARE STEINER, SWIERS AND SHOSTAL. DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF THEM ARE INTERESTED. ONE WHOSE NAME COMES UP AS A TOP CANDIDATE, IN PART BECAUSE OF HIS MOSCOW CONSULAR EXPERIENCE, IS BILL FARRAND. I REALIZE THE PROBLEM KEN FACES AT THIS TIME, BUT BEFORE RULING BILL OUT I WOULD LIKE YOUR CONSIDERED THOUGHT ON (1) WHETHER HE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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INDEED BE A GOOD CHOICE (2) WHETHER HE MIGHT BE INTERESTED AND (3) WHETHER A WAY COULD BE DEvised - SHIFTS WITHIN ECON/CO, REASSIGNMENT OF DAVID WEISZ, ASSIGNMENT OF PFOTENHAUER FROM THE OVERCOMPLEMENT TRAINING POSITION - TO FREE UP BILL THIS SUMMER. IF YOU SEE ANY WAY, LET ME KNOW WHAT WOULD NEED TO BE DONE TO MAKE IT WORK. IF YOU SEE NO WAY, I WILL UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE YOU HAVING CONSIDERED IT.

9. TOM SUTTON WHO IS PREPARING TO COME OUT TO YOU IN MARCH AS AN ASSISTANT GSO ON A ONE YEAR ASSIGNMENT HAS EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST IN A LONGER ASSIGNMENT LOOKING TOWARD HARD CORE SOVIET SPECIALIZATION. HE HAS SCORED 3/3 IN HIS TEST, AND BEEN THE CLASS LEADER FROM THE OUTSET WHICH IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF HIS WORK AS A RUSSIAN SPECIALIST DURING A LONG PRIOR CAREER WITH THE AIR FORCE. MCCALL RECENTLY SPOKE WITH TRACY ABOUT OUR HIGH REGARD FOR SUTTON, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT WE MOVE NOW TO HAVE HIS TOUR EXTENDED TO TWO YEARS. HE SHOULD MAKE A DANDY GSO AND WE WOULD HATE TO LOSE HIM TO A GERMAN ASSIGNMENT WHICH PER IS TALKING ABOUT FOR HIM IN 1979. A TWO YEAR

ASSIGNMENT TO YOU WOULD PUT HIM SAFELY OUT OF THEIR REACH.

10. I REACHED THE AMBASSADOR THIS EVENING ABOUT THE DODER STORY AFTER THE CABLE TO YOU HAD GONE. HE SAID THAT HE REQUIRES OFFICERS TO CHECK WITH HIM BEFORE MEETING PROMINENT DISSIDENTS BUT NOT OTHER SOVIET CITIZENS, THAT THERE IS NO 24-HOUR REQUIREMENT, AND THAT CONTACTS WITH DISSIDENTS ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO A SMALL GROUP (IN FACT MANY MORE OFFICERS ARE INVOLVED NOW THAN BEFORE). WE WILL WAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU BEFORE PROPOSING ANSWERS TO TODAY'S QUESTIONS. OUR GUIDANCE WAS BADLY MANGLED BY THE SPOKESMAN, UNFORTUNATELY. CHRISTOPHER

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